



## Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** City Councilors  
**From:** Mayor Miro Weinberger  
**Date:** April 25, 2013  
**Re:** Recycling Toters Resolution

---

While we are fortunate in Burlington to run a robust and effective recycling program that keeps recyclable commodities out of our landfills, we have significant challenges with keeping our recyclables in the blue, 15-gallon recycle bins while they are awaiting pickup. Too often the open recycling bins and high winds combine to result in litter on our City streets, particularly in the higher density parts of town.

At my request, Bill Ward, Director of Code Enforcement, and Steve Goodkind, Director of the Department of Public Works, created the attached memorandum that succinctly sets forth the problem, challenges, and recommendations and provides a firm foundation for creating a mandatory recycling toters initiative.

Earlier this week, I facilitated a meeting with a number of Burlington landlords and directors Ward and Goodkind during which we had a productive conversation about the logistics of creating and implementing such an initiative.

The resolution, co-sponsored by Councilors Max Tracy and Karen Paul, for your consideration on Monday night's City Council meeting agenda, begins the City's process of taking on the challenge of keeping our streets clean from recycling day debris. The resolution asks our Code Enforcement and Public Works departments to work with City staff and the Chittenden Solid Waste District to develop an initiative, formulated with public input, that makes wheeled, covered recycling toters (either 65 or 95 gallons) mandatory for rental properties with three or more units throughout the City.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider and pass Councilor Tracy's resolution and look forward to working with our City team to craft an impactful initiative for your consideration.

Thank you.



**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE &  
BURLINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

645A Pine St, PO Box 849  
Burlington, VT 05402-0849  
**VOICE (802) 863-0442**

To: Mayor Weinberger  
From: Bill Ward and Steve Goodkind  
Date: 2-8-13  
Subject: Recycling toter recommendation

**Problem statement**

There are many neighborhoods that have regular disorder visible in the form of windblown litter from poorly organized recyclable materials. The Residential High Density Zoning district has the highest level of recycling disorder followed by the area immediately surrounding that district. The common theme in these neighborhoods is multiple rental units needing greater capacity for recycling than the standard 15 gallon uncovered recycle bins. The result is often a chaotic pile of materials placed in and around the uncovered bins. Even without poor weather conditions to cause the materials to scatter, the general appearance of these areas is not clean and sanitary as the Burlington City ordinance Section 18-111 requires.



**Challenges or questions for expanding recycling toter use**

The City of Burlington has approximately 200 toters in stock. Additional toters will be required and may not all be for sale at the reduced rate. We estimate that 4-5000 toters may be needed to meet this requirement. If we want to take advantage of a CSDW subsidy, we may have to spread our purchase out over several years.

The logistics of purchasing, storing and assembling the toters will require staff and storage space beyond our current capabilities. Toters come in four parts, requiring work to assemble the lid and wheels on each unit and then to handle the sales transaction. It will not be possible to handle large scale sales in a short period of time.

Information available in alternative media forms for people with disabilities.  
For disability access information call (802) 863-0450 TTY.  
An Equal Opportunity Employer



Some haulers may be willing to provide recycling totes for their customers. This would reduce the number of totes the City would have to deal with.

It may be possible to partner with CSWD to use their drop off center on Pine Street as a location to store totes and to sell them directly to Burlington residents.

### **Recommendation**

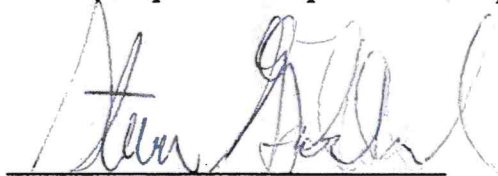
The Department of Public Works is charged with the collection and organization of the recycling program in Burlington. The Code Enforcement office is responsible for enforcement of the Minimum Housing requirements in chapter 18 of Burlington City Ordinances. The two departments believe that requiring owners of rental properties (other than single family) in the city to provide wheeled covered recycling totes of a minimum of 65 Gallons of capacity for every three units (or portion thereof) will greatly reduce the level of disorder associated with these properties. The benefits of covered totes include greater tenant satisfaction, less litter in neighborhoods and ease of use for City Recycling crews.

We recommend the City Council seek public input and hold committee hearings on our recommendation that all rental units with 3 or more units be required to purchase or contract to have large covered recycling totes based on the following schedule:

<b><u>Number of Units</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline to comply*</u></b>	<b><u>Number of properties/Aprox. # of totes required**</u></b>
10 or more units	By July 1, 2013	95/285
6 or More units	By September 1, 2013	214/642
3 or More units	By July 1, 2014	623/1246

\*dates are shown for discussion purposes only

\*\* Properties that provide a dumpster for recycling would be exempt



Steve Goodkind  
Director of Public Works



Bill Ward  
Director of Code Enforcement